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AN EXTRA, FOR SOUTHERN AND WESTERN CIRCULATION, will be ready in a few days. Merchants who wish to join will please send in their Advertisements as soon as possible.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

One of the most singular phenomena which has recently attracted the attention of scientific men, is the present peculiar winter—part of which we have passed, and the rest we are passing—a winter, during which the depth and quantity of snow—the intensity of the cold—and the sudden changes are almost without a precedent, and beyond the recollections of the oldest inhabitants. No resemblance to the features of the present winter can be found till we go back to the earliest colonial history, when we will find the snows equally deep—the cold equally intensive—but the sudden transitions scarcely existing at all. In the latter respect, therefore, our present winter differs from any that we have heard or read of.

A scientific inquiry into the causes of the severity of the weather, may give rise to many fanciful theories in meteorology—the history of comets—natural changes of the earth and planets—together with a variety of speculation, some of it good and useful, and other of it baseless as the cloud that hangs over the top of Hoboken hill. One thing is evident. Whatever may be the causes—connected with meteorology—of the remarkable features of the present winter—its effects, during the breaking up in spring, and upon various other natures in the course of the next summer may be expected, as sure as the sun rises east of Brooklyn and sets west of Jersey City.

In reading over the other day one of the ingenious medical articles of Dr. Brandreth, who speculates like a philosopher on the qualities of the atmosphere of this country, we were led to investigate the peculiar effects of the present remarkable winter upon vegetable and animal life, during the expected change of season and up to the commencement of another winter.

And first of vegetable life. It is known among medical men and chemists, that vast quantities of saltpetre are held in suspension in the atmosphere, and that from some peculiar inherent property, it is absorbed in the formation of snow in the upper regions and ultimately falls with it to the earth below. The more snow that falls the more of the original substance of saltpetre falls also. It is well known among farmers that a heavy snow during winter always leaves a slime on the ground, which, during the ensuing summer is highly favorable to luxuriant vegetation. Heavy crops of corn, wheat and all vegetable productions follow a long and dreary winter. This is a matter of common observation in the country, though probably little known in the crowded streets of a city.

The abundance and variety of vegetation following a snowy winter, is produced by the impregnation of saltpetre and kindred chemical salts, which, by a law of nature, mixes and blends with the snow, and falls with it to the earth. Every body who has seen the spring break up in the country, knows that there is a brown, dark, slimy substance always left by a heavy snow bank after it melts away, and that the spot so manured is of all others the richest in its subsequent crop of grass or corn.

It will be seen from these reasons that the heavy snows and severe winter give us the promise of one of the greatest crops next year, that the country probably ever saw.

It next may be inquired what effects the present winter may produce on animal life—in other words, on the public health.

In looking over the "Annual Report of Deaths in New York for 1835, published by order of the Common Council," we find that the past year exhibits a state of public health—of absence from epidemic and all malignant disorders—the most remarkable that the city has experienced for years past. For many years New York has been untouched by epidemic diseases, except the yellow fever in 1821, and the cholera in 1832. During both these years, if we remember right, the preceding winter was peculiarly severe—but nothing to what we have experienced during the present one.

Yet, although epidemic disease more easily produces panic, it is well known to men of science that the permanent and almost household diseases are far greater scourges upon the human race. The aggregate deaths of a few particular diseases in this city, during the last twenty years, stand as follows—consumption 17,859—convulsions 6,479—typhus fever 3,263—cholera 4,484—showing at once that consumption is the great scourge of New York, and exceeds other diseases in the ratio of 17 to 6.

It is generally considered among medical men that the breaking up of the present heavy winter will produce crowds of diseases, particularly pleurisy, fever, and all such as arise from sudden atmospheric changes and heavy thaws. If the present winter turn out to be highly favorable to vegetable life, it is equally certain that animal life—particularly human life—must encounter a severe struggle during the transitions of the season. The rich and wealthy, by skill and means, can take care of their health with ease—but the poor are without the power to avoid the fatal effects of a vitiated atmosphere, or sudden changes. We do not allude to the effects of luxury and dissipation. Young ladies of fashionable life, who expose themselves from vanity,

must pay the heavy penalty that nature never fails to inflict. But the poor are advised to be careful—to avoid exposure—to keep their pores open—to preserve their feet always dry, and their heads always cool. Another important point in the approaching spring is to preserve the bowels and the blood pure, and to do this we know nothing that experience has proved more beneficial than a moderate use, when necessary, of the Brandreth Pills. Others are probably as good, but that name happens to occur to us at present. We must not expect to reach the next summer, and pass through the approaching thaw, without some trying days for the health. When we all get safely into June, we shall advise with our patients again.

The year 1836 may be expected, therefore, to be favorable to vegetable life, but destructive to animal life. See if we are not a true prophet. We shall have tremendous crops of corn, wheat, rye, &c. and an equal abundance of coughs, colds, consumptions, fevers, and all disorders.

FIRE.—Yesterday morning, about 3 o'clock, a fire broke out in a stable in Stanton street, near Allen, which was entirely destroyed. At 4, another broke out in the large 5 story building, No. 200 Mulberry street, known as the "Methodist Book Concern." The building, with all its contents, paper, books, type and presses, was entirely consumed, and a small frame building on the opposite side, used as an office for the coal yard, was likewise burned. At 6 A. M., the north gable end fell in, and crushed the two story house adjoining, which had been, until then, unharmed. The destruction of property was much greater than it would have been, had the firemen been able to get at the water. But all the hydrants in the vicinity were frozen, and of course, useless. The firemen did all that men could do, and by their extraordinary exertions, an extension of the fire was prevented. It is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary.

It is estimated that the loss of property was not less than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. All the stereotype plates, the great power press, and thirty other presses are destroyed. Nearly three hundred people have been thrown out of employment, by the dreadful conflagration.

The building was insured at the Greenwich Insurance office for \$10,000, and \$30,000 in some of the insolvent companies in this city. Several applications had been made to be insured in some of the neighbouring cities, but these being refused, the building was made as secure as it possibly could be. Mr. Baker, the porter and watchman of the building went through every part at 10 o'clock on the previous night, and not a spark of fire was in it. The origin of the fire, therefore, remains undiscovered.

TRUE COURAGE.—A few days since as Mr. Charles Cartledge of 69 Water street, was passing along Front street, enveloped in a cloak, a large dog, evincing every symptom of hydrophobia, sprang at his throat. He foiled the first attempt with his arm and the animal immediately repeated it. Mr. C. caught the dog in his arms, and thus prevented him from biting. He then threw the dog down and jumped upon him nearly choking him. Several gentlemen passing by stopped to see the fun, and in answer to Mr. C.'s repeated cries for assistance, generously gave it with their tongues. One recommended a brickbat, another a club and a third a knife. None however came to his assistance in any more substantial manner. When Mr. C. had exhausted the dog and himself, he jumped and ran off, forgetting however to thank the gentleman for their noble conduct.

We learn that the present dry cold weather has produced as much hydrophobia among the canine race as the hottest and driest dog days in summer. Take care good people.

The Woods are carrying everything before them in Philadelphia.

A BARBARIAN.—Mr. Hannegan, in the House of Representatives, a few days since, having made a motion to clear the galleries, said "he did not wish to embrace the ladies."

NEW ROUTE TO LONDON.—Formerly Bristol, in England, was the great western port in Europe—Liverpool latterly has taken the lead. Late accounts state that the merchants of Bristol have determined to restore the American trade to its old channel. The following extract develops curious views:—

A rail way is to be made from London to Bristol, and manufactories, especially of cotton, are to be established in the immediate neighborhood. It is stated also that a company is forming for the purpose of establishing a steam communication by vessels of large burden between Bristol and New York. The port of Bristol is easier of entrance from the sea than Liverpool, and from being situated near the mouth of the Irish channel, which has to be traversed to reach Liverpool, the passage from New York would be several hours, perhaps a day, shorter than the latter city. Bristol is moreover only one hundred and fifteen miles from London, whereas Liverpool is over two hundred. If therefore the people of Bristol can hold out any commercial temptations to American merchants, they will find it easy, with their advantages of position, to support a line of packets. Merit travellers would decidedly prefer embarking for Bristol instead of Liverpool.

FRANKING.—We have not heard of many members of Congress sending their dirty linen through the post office to be washed at home and returned.

Philadelphia is now lighted up with gas. We trust they will now behave better at nights.

[Private Correspondence.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16, 1836.

The intelligence of the happy adjustment of our difficulty with France has been received here, with every appearance of satisfaction; but, at the same time, I cannot help thinking that some few of our disappointed politicians, and very many of the office-seekers, are woefully saddened by the news. That old hickory himself is not particularly well pleased at the pacific result, I have every reason to believe—though he exults in having backed out the Frenchmen. He always hated the French.

We must abolish the House of Representatives—they have got too boisterous. Bynum said to-day that the Hall would soon be converted into "a political cock pit,"—a bear garden it has long been. Yesterday, Wise was pitted against Pinckney of South Carolina, on the abolition question. He said he "ought to be spurned and hissed at as a deserter from the principles of the South,"—and, in explanation, he intimated that the gentleman was the Judas Iscariot of the South, and had, for thirty pieces of silver, betrayed her to her enemies. Wise was stopped and put down by the Chair, but the House, after a confused and disorderly debate, gave him leave to proceed. To-day, a similar scene was enacted between Humes of Kentucky, and Smith of Maine. Mr. Humes spoke on the subject of Mr. Smith's motion for printing the letter of Post Master General Barry, presented to the House at the close of the last session, and commenced by declaring that he would speak as freely of "the gentleman from Maine," as he could, without transgressing the rules of order. He got as far, in pursuance of this course, as to pronounce Smith's letter on the Post Office Investigation, as published over his own signature during the recess, as "grossly false." The Chair arrested the gentleman's remarks as disorderly, and an appeal was taken from the Chair's decision. After a debate of some hours, it was solemnly decided that for one member to call another a liar to his face, on the floor, was a "personal allusion," and disorderly. But, nevertheless, the House gave Mr. Humes leave to proceed with his speech to-morrow.

It so happens that these personal attacks are always made upon men who are known to be non-combatants. Smith, in his contest with Jarvis last year, showed the white feather, and could not be expected to do more this year. As to Mr. Pinckney, he is a professor of religion, and could not be expected, by any degree of provocation, to be induced to forget the Christian principle of forbearance under injuries. Wise and Peyton practice every day at the barracks, expecting to be called out. Wise can now, it is said, hit a dollar fifty times in succession, at the usual distance.

TEXAS.—The Red River Herald, published at Natchitoches, has a letter from Texas of which the following is an extract:

"In every action the enemy have been beaten by our troops. The towns on the Rio Grande have risen against Santa Anna. Letters of marque have been granted by Texas, and so soon as we can get them afloat, we can carry the war into the enemy's country."

The Latest.—ST. AUGUSTINE, Feb. 2.—We are still without employment, except such as regular camp duty and the guarding of pickets require. A false alarm was created the other night, the signal gun at the bridge picket having been fired by mistake.

There are reports of Indians having been seen over the bridge yesterday, but little confidence is placed in these rumors. Capt. Merchant's company of about 40 regulars arrived here yesterday.

A company of mounted men came in to-day from Picolata, bringing despatches from that place, and also from Gen. Clinch. We learn that, according to the best opinions, the main body of the Indians are concentrating their forces at Powelltown, in the west; that Micapony, a chief, has joined Powell with 500 men; that they number at least 2500 warriors, and that they are making great preparations for an early and decisive battle with General Clinch. Their object is to engage him to advantage with an overpowering force, before he can receive reinforcements.

The Richmond & Fredericksburg Rail Road was opened the other day as far as Southans. When completed, it will bring us intelligence from the lazy capital of Virginia, a day earlier than at present. That's something.

No theatre is at present open in Baltimore. A dramatic Association met the other evening, toasted their shins, and separated.

NEW PLAN OF INSURANCE AGAINST FIRE.—It is proposed in Baltimore, to incorporate the city as a General Insurance Company, to take all risks, and receive all premiums, in cases of fire in that city. From accurate data, it is calculated to produce a revenue of \$250,000 a year, and thus to keep all the premiums in their own city. Why could not the Corporation of New York insure all houses and property at a uniform rate, and pocket the premiums? They would make \$500,000 out of it.

THE ITALIAN OPERA in New Orleans comes badly on. Several papers pronounce the *troupe*, that the *Courier & Enquirer* so puffed and praised, very inferior articles, and complete humbugs in their line. Not so far from the truth.

ABOLITION still occasionally creates a ripple in Congress—but it passes away without harm.

Mr. J. Q. ADAMS has now abandoned his resolution.

Clayton the Aeronaut is at Mobile.

POLICE, Thursday.—Officers Welch and Huntingdon arrested on Wednesday night, one of the most precious and highly polished rascals that ever honored this city, by making it the arena of his exploits. He was arrested on suspicion of having stolen a coat from a fellow boarder, and the suspicions were confirmed by finding inside the lining of an old hat, a pledge ticket for the coat in question. At the watch house, he treated every one with the most supercilious contempt, and scarce deigned to answer any questions put to him. He gave his name as Prince. The following are a few of the exploits performed by this distinguished gentleman. Last summer, he went to reside in Brooklyn, for the benefit of his health and purse, and his own cognomen not suiting him exactly, he assumed the name and character of Mr. Mills the Aeronaut. With the assistance of those plumes, he managed to swindle a gentleman in Brooklyn of \$500, under the pretence of borrowing it, for the purpose of inflating his balloon at his next ascension. For that, he is now under heavy bonds to appear and answer at the next sessions in Brooklyn. After the destructive fire of 16th December, Mr. Crane, Sexton of Dr. Phillip's church, which was destroyed, took the bell to his house for safety. Mr. Mills saw and admired it, and requested Mr. Crane to allow him to take a small piece of it, as he wished to try if he could make gas of it. Mr. Crane complied, and the gentleman reported, that on trial, it had proved most excellent, and was the easiest and cheapest way of making gas in the world. He then requested Mr. C. to give him the whole bell, which was refused; but one day during Mr. Crane's absence, his love for gas-making overcame his honesty, and he decamped with it.

He has occasionally amused himself by assuming the name and appointment of Lieut. Monroe, of the U. S. N. Under that name he married the beautiful daughter of a respectable widow up town. He one day too, borrowed a beautiful gold watch of a friend, as he was going to set up with a sick person, but his memory failed him, and it was never returned.

His appearance is dashing in the extreme, and his manners very winning and fascinating. He has been running a long race, but has at length arrived at the goal. A person came yesterday morning to the office to bail him, and represented himself as Mr. Prince's father, but the Prince disowned his parent, and he is now in durance vile.

IMPORTANT.—A late letter from Havana, states that Spain has at length acknowledged the Independence of the South American and Mexican States.

HUMANITY.—The elders of Dr. Spring's church have at length removed the avalanche that hung from the eaves of their Session room, which for weeks has jeopardized the life of every person passing under it.

The ship New Jersey, Rarstow, Master, arrived at Boston from Liverpool the 10th of January, but she brings no news of importance.

REMEMBER THE POOR.—A meeting has been held in the Fifth ward, to devise measures for helping the poor through the present weather. Let every ward follow this example.

The Hon. Henry Clay is about resigning his seat in Congress. He must be tired of politics.

It is calculated that 500 divorces will be granted by the legislatures during the present year. Supposing the marriages at 5000, this will be 10 per cent off to cash, cross tempers, and crim cons.

Newspapers are ten times more read than books. Books are for the highly educated—newspapers for the world, high and low—ignorant and educated alike.

Politics—whigs, democrats, Jackson, Harrison, Van Buren, &c. &c. are all words sufficient to sicken any reader.

THE SEMINOLES.—The native savages number 2000 warriors, 1000 negroes, and 600 runaways—making a body of 3600 rascals, who ought to be sent across the Mississippi directly.

REMOVAL OF WASHINGTON.—A removal of the seat of government from Washington to Cincinnati, is talked of in the trans-Alleghanian papers. Wait a little while wont you?

WESTERN NAVIGATION.—Twelve steam boats are advertised in one Pittsburgh paper, for different ports down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. Twenty years ago there might be one.

A PROTRACTED MEETING.—Upwards of two coaches and thirty-two gigs were destroyed in Baltimore by a vast avalanche of snow, which fell from the roof of the Methodist meeting house, on an adjoining shed under which they were standing. Dr. Spring's approaching avalanche will far exceed this—see if it don't.

No Bishop was appointed for Michigan at the recent Convention, in consequence of the bad weather. Next June another trial will be made.

LOCO FOCO THUNDER.—On hearing of the passage of the U. S. Bank, a loco-foco paper in Pennsylvania talks so:—

"We are betrayed, and we will vindicate ourselves with our bayonets, and the traitors are forever consigned to the deep unutterable execration of the American people. This Bank must be annihilated, 'peaceably if we can, forcibly if we must.' We call on our fellow citizens of Philadelphia—raise the accursed institution to the ground, and we will help you to strew salt over its foundations!"

Put salt on its tail if you can. Oh! Oh! Oh!

MARRIED.

On the 16th instant, by the Rev. Dr. Woodbridge, Mr. John T. Moore, of the firm of C. W. & J. T. Moore, to Mary Estlin, third daughter of Mr. Ezra Knapp, all of this city.

DIED.

On the 16th instant, Mr. John H. Kising, in the 59th year of his age. On the 13th inst. Captain William Bedell, aged 47 years formerly of Staten Island.